Postal Regulatory Commission Submitted 8/14/2015 4:10:53 PM Filing ID: 93146 Accepted 8/14/2015

BEFORE THE POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

MARKET DOMINANT PRODUCT PRICES
INBOUND MARKET DOMINANT MULTI-SERVICE AGREEMENTS
WITH FOREIGN POSTAL OPERATORS 1

Docket No. R2015-6

CHINA POST GROUP - UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE MULTI-PRODUCT BILATERAL AGREEMENT (MC2010-35) NEGOTIATED SERVICE AGREEMENT

NOTICE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE OF TYPE 2 RATE ADJUSTMENT, AND NOTICE OF FILING FUNCTIONALLY EQUIVALENT AGREEMENT (August 14, 2015)

The United States Postal Service (Postal Service) hereby provides notice, in accordance with 39 C.F.R. § 3010.40 *et seq.*, of a Type 2 rate adjustment for inbound small packet with delivery scanning items, which results in improvement over default rates established under the Universal Postal Union (UPU) Acts. This notice concerns the inbound portion of a Multi-Product Bilateral Agreement with China Post Group (China Post 2015 Agreement), which the Postal Service seeks to include within the Inbound Market Dominant Multi-Service Agreements with Foreign Postal Operators 1 product, in the market dominant product list of the Mail Classification Schedule.¹

In accordance with Order No. 2148,² the Postal Service explains in this notice how the China Post 2015 Agreement that is the subject of this docket is functionally equivalent to the agreement with China Post filed in Docket No. R2010-6 ("the China Post 2010 Agreement"). Accordingly the China Post 2015 Agreement should be

¹ See PRC, (draft) Mail Classification Schedule, posted June 4, 2015 (with revisions through August 3, 2015), available at http://www.prc.gov/mail-classification-schedule, 1602.3 Inbound Market Dominant Multi-Service Agreements with Foreign Postal Operators, at 200-201.

² PRC Order No. 2148, Order Granting, in Part, Motion for Partial Reconsideration of Order No. 1864 and Modifying, in Part, Order No. 1864, Docket No. R2013-9, August 11, 2014.

included within the Inbound Market-Dominant Multi-Service Agreements with Foreign Postal Operators 1 product.

In accordance with 39 C.F.R. § 3010.41, the Postal Service is required to provide public notice no later than 45 days prior to the intended implementation date, and to transmit notice to the Commission no later than 45 days prior to the intended implementation date of a negotiated service agreement. To satisfy this requirement, the Postal Service is filing the China Post 2015 Agreement with the Commission more than 45 days before the intended effective date of the China Post 2015 Agreement, which is October 1, 2015.

Attachment 1 to this Notice is the Postal Service's application for non-public treatment of these materials. A redacted copy of the China Post 2015 Agreement is included in the public version of this filing as Attachment 2. A redacted version of the supporting financial documentation is included with this filing as a separate Excel file.

The full text of the agreement and the supporting financial documentation establishing compliance are being filed separately under seal with the Commission.

I. Notice of Agreement and Rate Adjustment

A. Satisfaction of the Criteria under Part 3010, Subpart D of the Rules of Practice and Procedure

The Postal Service provides the following answers, descriptions, and affirmations in response to the criteria for contents of a notice of agreement in support of a negotiated service agreement, as provided in 39 C.F.R. § 3010.42. This statement provides support for the implementation of the China Post 2015 Agreement and the establishment of the rates offered therein. The discussion that follows concerns only the inbound market dominant rates and related sections of the China Post 2015

Agreement. The inbound competitive rates in the China Post 2015 Agreement will be filed with the Commission in a separate docket.

- (a) ... [A] notice of agreement that shall include at a minimum:
- (1) A copy of the negotiated service agreement;
- (2) The planned effective date(s) of the proposed rates;
- (3) A representation or evidence that public notice of the planned changes has been issued or will be issued at least 45 days before the effective date(s) for the proposed new rates; and
- (4) The identity of a responsible Postal Service official who will be available to provide prompt responses to requests for clarification from the Commission.

A copy of the China Post 2015 Agreement is being filed under seal in connection with the instant filing.³ The agreement's inbound market dominant rates are planned to become effective on October 1, 2015. Public notice of these rates is being given through the instant notice at least 45 days before the effective date. Ms. Teresa Yeager, General Manager, Business Development, Asia Pacific, Global Business Solutions, United States Postal Service, will be available to provide prompt responses to requests for clarification from the Commission.

(b) A statement identifying all parties to the agreement and a description clearly explaining the operative components of the agreement.

As with the China Post 2010 Agreement, the parties to the China Post 2015

Agreement are the United States Postal Service and China Post Group, the designated postal operators of the United States of America and China, respectively. This agreement includes negotiated inbound market dominant rates for various inbound

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³ The copy of the China Post 2015 Agreement filed under seal in connection with this filing has yet to be signed by both parties. China Post Group has indicated that it expects to sign the agreement soon. Therefore, the Postal Service intends to file under seal a copy of the China Post 2015 agreement executed by the Postal Service and China Post Group, as well as a redacted version of that document, in this docket soon.

small packets with delivery scanning. Similar pricing was included in the China Post 2010, China Post 2011, China Post 2013, and China Post 2014 agreements.

- (c) Details regarding the expected improvements in the net financial position or operations of the Postal Service. The projection of change in net financial position as a result of the agreement shall include for each year of the agreement:
- (1) The estimated mailer-specific costs, volumes, and revenues of the Postal Service absent the implementation of the negotiated service agreement;
- (2) The estimated mailer-specific costs, volumes, and revenues of the Postal Service which result from implementation of the negotiated service agreement;
- (3) An analysis of the effects of the negotiated service agreement on the contribution to institutional costs from mailers not party to the agreement; and
- (4) If mailer-specific costs are not available, the source and derivation of the costs that are used shall be provided, together with a discussion of the currency and reliability of those costs and their suitability as a proxy for the mailer-specific costs.

The Postal Service provided information about expected financial improvements, costs, volumes, and revenues in the financial workpapers that it filed under seal.

(d) An identification of each component of the agreement expected to enhance the performance of mail preparation, processing, transportation or other functions in each year of the agreement, and a discussion of the nature and expected impact of each such enhancement.

For the China Post 2015 Agreement, operational and other improvements include:

- Revised rates and terms for Small Packet with Delivery Scanning; and
- Sortation requirements.

These improvements should enhance the performance of mail preparation, processing, transportation and other functions related to the delivery services provided for inbound Letter Post items under the agreement.

(e) Details regarding any and all actions (performed or to be performed) to assure that the agreement will not result in unreasonable harm to the marketplace.

This agreement will not result in unreasonable harm to the marketplace. China Post Group maintains a generally dominant position in the market for Letter Post originating in its home country. Therefore, China Post Group is the only entity in a position to avail itself of an agreement with the Postal Service of this type and scope. The United States' Private Express Statutes also generally prohibit entities other than the Postal Service from carrying inbound international letters commercially after entry at a port in the United States, at least below certain price and weight thresholds. The Postal Service is unaware of any private entity that would be able to serve the United States market for small packets with delivery scanning from China on the terms and scale contemplated in this agreement.

In addition, the Postal Service and China Post Group serve as their respective countries' designated operators for the exchange of mail, including in particular, Letter Post products, under rules set by the UPU. Designated operators ordinarily compensate one another for the delivery of Letter Post packets in accordance with terminal dues rates set by the UPU, unless a bilateral agreement is concluded.⁴

Because no other entities are in a position to serve as designated operators for the relevant types of mail either originating in China or destined for the United States, and because no other entities are subject to terminal dues rates with respect to inbound small packets with delivery scanning sent under UPU documentation to the United States from China, the market for the services offered under this agreement is in essence limited to its parties.

⁴ See Universal Postal Convention, Article 29 ¶ 11.

Because there is no significant competition in the relevant market when the inbound Letter Post flows are considered in totality, the Postal Service submits that the agreement is unlikely to pose competitive harm to the marketplace.⁵

(f) Such other information as the Postal Service believes will assist the Commission to issue a timely determination of whether the requested changes are consistent with applicable statutory policies.

In this docket, the Postal Service is presenting only those parts of the agreement that concern delivery of inbound small packets with delivery scanning in the United States that is tendered by a foreign postal operator, i.e., negotiated rates for an inbound market dominant product. The rates paid by the Postal Service to China Post Group for outbound delivery of the Postal Service's products in China are not presented to the Commission, because those rates represent supplier costs to the Postal Service, which are built into the prices that the Postal Service charges its mailing customers for outbound products. An agreement concerning outbound services with a postal operator would no more need to be classified as a product or otherwise subjected to prior Commission review than would an agreement to purchase trucking services from highway contractors or to purchase air transportation from air carriers.

B. Data Collection Plan

Under 39 C.F.R. § 3010.43, the Postal Service must include with its notice of agreement "a detailed plan for providing data or information on actual experience under the agreement sufficient to allow evaluation of whether the negotiated service agreement operates in compliance with 39 U.S.C. [§] 3622(c)(10)." The Postal Service intends to report information on this agreement through the Annual Compliance Report.

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⁵ This does not imply, however, that there is an absence of competition in this market. The market is liberalized to some degree, particularly for bulk business letters and heavier weight Letter Post. ⁶ 39 C.F.R. § 3010.43.

The Postal Service will continue to cooperate with the Commission to provide any necessary information about mail flows from China within the course of the annual compliance review process. Therefore, the Postal Service proposes that no special data collection plan be created for this agreement. Furthermore, with respect to performance measurement, because this agreement covers "merely a grouping of other products already being measured," the Postal Service respectfully requests that the agreement be excepted from separate reporting under 39 C.F.R. § 3055.3(a)(3) by virtue of Commission Order No. 996. That Order provided a standing exception for all agreements filed in the International Market Dominant Multi-Service Agreements with Foreign Postal Operators 1 product grouping.

C. Statutory Criteria

Under 39 U.S.C. § 3622(c)(10), the criteria for the Commission's review are whether the agreement (1) improves the net financial position of the Postal Service or enhances the performance of operational functions, (2) will not cause unreasonable harm to the marketplace, and (3) will be available on public and reasonable terms to similarly situated mailers. The first two criteria have been addressed in Part I.A above. With respect to the third criterion, there are no entities that are similarly situated to China Post Group in their ability to tender the small packet with delivery scanning flows from China that are the subject of the inbound market-dominant rates in the China Post 2015 Agreement, under similar operational conditions. Nor are there any other entities that serve as a designated operator for letter post originating in China. Therefore, the

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PRC Order No. 292, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Periodic Reporting of Service Performance Measurements and Customer Satisfaction, Docket No. RM2009-11, September 2, 2009, at 15.
 PRC Order No. 996, Order Concerning an Additional Inbound Market Dominant Multi-Service Agreement with Foreign Postal Operators 1 Negotiated Service Agreement, Docket No. R2012-2, November 23, 2011, at 7.

Postal Service finds it difficult to conceive of a "similarly situated mailer" to which it could make a similar agreement available; accordingly, the Postal Service views this criterion as inapplicable in this instance. Because all of the criteria set forth in 39 U.S.C. § 3622(c)(10) have been met, the Postal Service respectfully urges the Commission to act promptly by allowing the inbound market-dominant rates in the China Post 2015 Agreement to be implemented under 39 C.F.R. § 3010.40, as requested.

II. Functional Equivalency

In Order No. 2148, the Commission designated, "for purposes of functional equivalence comparisons in future market dominant FPO 1 [Foreign Postal Operators 1] filings," the TNT Agreement filed in Docket No. R2010-5, and the China Post 2010 Agreement filed in R2010-6, as alternative baseline agreements, with selection of the baseline agreement in each filing at the option of the Postal Service.¹⁰

The China Post 2015 Agreement that is the subject of this docket is functionally equivalent to the China Post 2010 Agreement filed in Docket No. R2010-6, which was included in the Inbound Market Dominant Multi-Service Agreements with Foreign Postal Operators 1 product grouping.

The terms of the China Post 2015 Agreement fit within the Mail Classification
Schedule (MCS) language for the Inbound Market Dominant Multi-Service Agreements
with Foreign Postal Operators 1 product grouping, as revised and updated in the most

¹⁰ PRC Order No. 2148, at 8.

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⁹ See PRC Order No. 163, Order Concerning Bilateral Agreement with Canada Post for Inbound Market Dominant Services, Docket Nos. MC2009-7 and R2009-1, December 31, 2008, at 9-10 ("Given its narrow characterization of the underlying Agreement, the Postal Service's position [as to 'similarly situated mailers'] is correct. For purposes of this proceeding, the Commission concludes that it would be largely an academic exercise to consider whether a broader characterization should be employed.").

recent working draft of the MCS available on the Commission's website.¹¹ Therefore, the China Post 2015 Agreement and the China Post 2010 agreement conform to a common description.

The China Post 2015 Agreement and the China Post 2010 Agreement are constructed from a similar template and contain many similar terms and conditions. The two agreements include rates for small packet with delivery scanning tendered to the Postal Service from each respective foreign postal operator's territory. Each contract is with a foreign postal operator. The financial models used to project costs and revenues for the duration of the agreements are similar. Therefore, the Postal Service submits that the China Post 2015 Agreement is functionally equivalent to the China Post 2010 Agreement, and should be added to the market dominant product list within the same Inbound Market Dominant Multi-Service Agreements with Foreign Postal Operators 1 product listing. There are, however, differences between the China Post 2015 Agreement and the China Post 2010 Agreement. The Postal Service provides the following comparison of the sections of the China Post 2015 Agreement and the China Post 2010 Agreement that concern inbound rates. Differences between the two agreements concerning inbound rates include the following.

 In the second Whereas paragraph, Articles 2 and 3 have been renumbered to Articles 3 and 4;

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¹¹ See PRC, (draft) Mail Classification Schedule, posted June 4, 2015 (with revisions through August 3, 2015), available at http://www.prc.gov/mail-classification-schedule, 1602.3 Inbound Market Dominant Multi-Service Agreements with Foreign Postal Operators, at 200-201.

¹² The differences listed do not include differences that specifically apply to the sections of the China Post 2015 Agreement that concern inbound Air CP, Surface CP, and EMS. Those differences will be listed in the companion filing which requests that the China Post 2015 Agreement be included within the Inbound Competitive Multi-Service Agreements with Foreign Postal Operators 1 product of the competitive product list.

- In the third Whereas paragraph, the Conditions Precedent clause referenced has been moved from Article 3 to Article 4;
- The Purpose of the Agreement set forth in Article 1 has been revised;
- Article 2, Guiding Principles, has been added and subsequent articles have been renumbered accordingly throughout the document;
- Article 3, Oversight and Effective Date, has been edited to remove a reference to an article concerning termination;
- Article 9(1) has been clarified to show that failure to make timely payments shall be considered good cause to terminate;
- Article 12(3) has been reformatted and slightly edited;
- Article 14, which concerns confidentiality requirements, has been slightly revised to include mention of Annual Compliance Review filings;
- The contact information in Article 16 regarding notice has changed;
- Article 22 has been expanded to include references to past agreements as well as some additional edits;
- Article 23(1), which states the intended effective date of the agreement is
 October 1, 2015, has been added;
- Article 24 concerning intellectual property has been expanded;
- The article numbers listed in Article 25 concerning survivability have been adjusted;
- A list of annexes is included in the agreement;
- Annex 1 and Annex 2 have been revised;
- The sample label in Annex 3 has been revised;

- A link to a UPU website has been updated in Annex 4;
- Annex 5 has been significantly revised, and includes more detailed sortation requirements;
- An Annex 6 concerning Business Rules has been added; and
- An Annex 11 has been added that also concerns inbound small packet with delivery scanning.

These differences do not affect the similarity of market characteristics or similarity of cost characteristics of the China Post 2015 Agreement and the baseline China Post 2010 Agreement. Therefore, the Postal Service does not consider that the specified differences detract from the conclusion that the China Post 2015 Agreement is functionally equivalent to the China Post 2010 Agreement.

III. Application for Non-Public Treatment

The Postal Service maintains that certain portions of the agreement and related financial information should remain confidential. In accordance with 39 C.F.R. § 3007.21, the Postal Service files as Attachment 1 to this notice its application for non-public treatment of materials filed under seal. A full discussion of the required elements of the application appears in Attachment 1.

IV. Conclusion

For the reasons discussed, the Postal Service urges that the China Post 2015

Agreement be added to the product listing for Inbound Market-Dominant Multi-Service

Agreements with Foreign Postal Operators 1 product in the Mail Classification

Schedule.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE By its attorneys:

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Christopher C. Meyerson Kyle Coppin Attorneys

475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20260-1137 (202) 268-7820; Fax -5628 christopher.c.meyerson@usps.gov August 14, 2015

ATTACHMENT 1

APPLICATION OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR NON-PUBLIC TREATMENT OF MATERIALS

In accordance with 39 C.F.R. § 3007.21, the United States Postal Service (Postal Service) hereby applies for non-public treatment of certain materials filed with the Commission in this docket. The materials pertain to the inbound market dominant multi-service agreement with China Post Group (China Post) at issue in this proceeding (Agreement). The Agreement and supporting documents establishing compliance are being filed separately under seal with the Commission. A redacted copy of the Agreement is filed with the notice as Attachment 2. In addition, a redacted version of the supporting financial documentation is included with this public filing as a separate Excel file.

The Postal Service hereby furnishes the justification required for this application by 39 C.F.R. § 3007.21(c) below.

(1) The rationale for claiming that the materials are non-public, including the specific statutory basis for the claim, and a statement justifying application of the provision(s);

The materials designated as non-public consist of information of a commercial nature that would not be publicly disclosed under good business practice. In the Postal Service's view, this information would be exempt from mandatory disclosure pursuant to 39 U.S.C. § 410(c)(2) and 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3) and (4). Because the portions of the materials that the Postal Service seeks to

¹ In appropriate circumstances, the Commission may determine the proper level of confidentiality to be afforded to such information after weighing the nature and extent of the likely commercial injury to the Postal Service against the public interest in maintaining the financial transparency of a government establishment competing in commercial markets. 39 U.S.C. § 504(g)(3)(A). The Commission has indicated that "likely commercial injury" should be construed broadly to

file under seal fall within the scope of information not required to be publicly disclosed, the Postal Service asks the Commission to support its determination that these materials are exempt from public disclosure and grant its application for their non-public treatment.

(2) Identification, including name, phone number, and e-mail address for any third party who is known to have a proprietary interest in the materials, or if such an identification is sensitive, contact information for a Postal Service employee who shall provide notice to that third party;

In the case of the instant Agreement, the Postal Service believes that the only third party with a proprietary interest in the materials is the foreign postal operator with whom the contract is made. Through text in the Agreement, the Postal Service has already informed the postal operator, in compliance with 39 C.F.R. § 3007.20(b), of the nature and scope of this filing and the operator's ability to address its confidentiality concerns directly with the Commission. Due to language and cultural differences as well as the sensitive nature of the Postal Service's rate relationship with the affected foreign postal operator, the Postal Service proposes that a designated Postal Service employee serve as the point of contact for any notices to the relevant postal operators. The Postal Service identifies as an appropriate contact person Haley McKittrick, Acting Manager, International Relations. Ms. McKittrick's phone number is (202) 268-4315, and her email address is Haley.E.McKittrick@usps.gov.²

encompass other types of injury, such as harms to privacy, deliberative process, or law enforcement interests. PRC Order No. 194, Second Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to Establish a Procedure for According Appropriate Confidentiality, Docket No. RM2008-1, Mar. 20, 2009, at 11.

The Postal Service acknowledges that 39 C.F.R. § 3007.21(c)(2) appears to contemplate only situations where a third party's identification is "sensitive" as permitting the designation of a Postal Service employee who shall act as an intermediary for notice purposes. To the extent that the Postal Service's filing might be construed as beyond the scope of the Commission's rules, the

(3) A description of the materials claimed to be non-public in a manner that, without revealing the materials at issue, would allow a person to thoroughly evaluate the basis for the claim that they are non-public;

In connection with its notice filed in this docket, the Postal Service included an Agreement and financial work papers associated with that Agreement. These materials were filed under seal, with redacted copies filed publicly, after notice to the affected postal operator. The Postal Service maintains that the redacted portions of the Agreement and related financial information should remain confidential.

With regard to the Agreement filed in this docket, the redactions withhold the actual prices being offered between the parties under the Agreement, as well as certain negotiated terms, including business rules concerning settlement procedures, and plans for future products.³ The redactions applied to the financial work papers protect commercially sensitive information such as underlying costs and assumptions, negotiated pricing, and cost coverage projections. To the extent practicable, the Postal Service has limited its redactions in the work papers to the actual information it has determined to be exempt from disclosure under 5 U.S.C. § 552(b).

(4) Particular identification of the nature and extent of commercial harm alleged and the likelihood of such harm;

Postal Service respectfully requests a waiver to designate a Postal Service employee as the contact person under these circumstances, for the reasons provided in the text above.

³ As stated in the notice, the copy of the China Post 2015 Agreement filed under seal in connection with this filing has yet to be signed by both parties. Therefore, the redacted version included as Attachment 2 of this filing, has been extensively redacted. As mentioned in the notice, if the China Post 2015 Agreement is signed by both parties, the Postal Service intends to file in this docket soon under seal a copy of the China Post 2015 Agreement executed by the Postal Service and China Post, as well as a redacted version of that document.

If the portions of the Agreement that the Postal Service determined to be protected from disclosure due to their commercially sensitive nature were to be disclosed publicly, the Postal Service considers that it is quite likely that it would suffer commercial harm. Information about negotiated pricing, business rules concerning settlement procedures, and plans for future products is commercially sensitive, and the Postal Service does not believe that it would be disclosed under good business practices. Foreign postal operators could use the information to their advantage in negotiating the terms of their own agreements with the Postal Service. Competitors could also use the information to assess the offers made by the Postal Service to foreign postal operators or other customers for any possible comparative vulnerabilities and focus sales and marketing efforts on those areas, to the detriment of the Postal Service. The Postal Service considers these to be highly probable outcomes that would result from public disclosure of the redacted material.

The financial workpapers include specific information such as costs, assumptions used in pricing decisions, the negotiated prices themselves, projections of variables, and contingency rates included to account for market fluctuations and exchange risks. All of this information is highly confidential in the business world. If this information were made public, the Postal Service's competitors would have the advantage of being able to determine the absolute floor for Postal Service pricing, in light of statutory, regulatory, or policy constraints. Thus, competitors would be able to take advantage of the information to offer lower pricing to postal customers, while subsidizing any

losses with profits from other customers. Eventually, this could freeze the Postal Service out of the relevant inbound delivery services markets. Given that these spreadsheets are filed in their native format, there is a great likelihood that the information would be used in this way.

Potential customers could also deduce from the rates provided in the Agreement or from the information in the workpapers whether additional margin for net contribution exists under the Agreement's prices. The settlement charges between the Postal Service and the foreign postal operator constitute costs underlying the postal services offered to each postal operator's customers, and disclosure of this cost basis would upset the balance of Postal Service negotiations with contract customers by allowing them to negotiate, rightly or wrongly, on the basis of the Postal Service's perceived supplier costs. From this information, each foreign postal operator or customer could also attempt to negotiate ever-decreasing prices, such that the Postal Service's ability to negotiate competitive yet financially sound rates would be compromised. Even the foreign postal operator involved in the Agreement at issue in this docket could use the information in the workpapers in an attempt to renegotiate the rates in its instrument by threatening to terminate any current agreements.

Price information in the Agreement and financial spreadsheets also consists of sensitive commercial information of the foreign postal operator.

Disclosure of such information could be used by competitors of the foreign postal operator to assess the foreign postal operator's underlying costs, and thereby develop a benchmark for the development of a competitive alternative. The

foreign postal operator would also be exposed to the same risks as the Postal Service in customer negotiations based on the revelation of their supplier costs.

(5) At least one specific hypothetical, illustrative example of each alleged harm;

Harm: Public disclosure of the prices in the Agreement, as well as any negotiated terms, would provide foreign postal operators or other potential customers extraordinary negotiating power to extract lower rates from the Postal Service.

Hypothetical: The negotiated prices are disclosed publicly on the Postal Regulatory Commission's website. Another postal operator sees the price and determines that there may be some additional profit margin below the rates provided to either operator. The other postal operator, which was offered rates comparable to those published in the Agreement, then uses the publicly available rate information to insist that it must receive lower rates than those the Postal Service has offered.

Harm: Public disclosure of the business rules concerning settlement procedures and plans for future products would be used by competitors and customers to the detriment of the Postal Service.

Hypothetical: The business rules concerning settlement procedures and plans for future products are disclosed publicly on the Postal Regulatory Commission's website. Another postal operator sees the business rules and plans for future products and uses the information to its advantage in negotiations with the Postal Service. In addition, a competitor could obtain the plans for future products and use the information to further develop its own products, to the detriment of the Postal Service.

Harm: Public disclosure of information in the financial workpapers would be used by competitors and customers to the detriment of the Postal Service.

Hypothetical: A competing delivery service obtains unredacted versions of the financial workpapers from the Postal Regulatory Commission's website. The competitor analyzes the workpapers to determine what the Postal Service would have to charge its customers in order to comply with business or legal considerations regarding cost coverage and contribution to institutional costs. The competing delivery service then sets its own rates for products similar to what the Postal Service offers its customers below that threshold and markets its purported ability to beat the Postal Service on price for international delivery services. By sustaining this below-market strategy for a relatively short period of time, the competitor, or all of the Postal Service's competitors acting in a likewise fashion, would freeze the Postal Service out of one or more relevant international delivery markets. Even if the competing providers do not manage wholly to freeze out the Postal Service, they will significantly cut into the revenue streams upon which the Postal Service relies to finance provision of universal service.

Harm: Public disclosure of information in the financial workpapers would be used detrimentally by the foreign postal operator's competitors.

Hypothetical: A competing international delivery service obtains a copy of the unredacted version of the financial workpapers from the Postal Regulatory Commission's website. The competitor analyzes the workpapers to assess the foreign postal operator's underlying costs for the corresponding products. The competitor uses that information as a baseline to negotiate with U.S. companies to develop lower-cost alternatives.

(6) The extent of protection from public disclosure deemed to be necessary;

The Postal Service maintains that the redacted portions of the materials filed non-publicly should be withheld from persons involved in competitive decision-making in the relevant market for international delivery products (including both private sector integrators and foreign postal operators), as well as their consultants and attorneys. Additionally, the Postal Service believes that actual or potential customers of the Postal Service for this or similar products (including other postal operators) should not be provided access to the non-public materials. This includes the counter-party to the Agreement with respect to all materials filed under seal, except for the text of the postal operator's Agreement, to which that counter-party already has access.

(7) The length of time deemed necessary for the non-public materials to be protected from public disclosure with justification thereof; and

The Commission's regulations provide that non-public materials shall lose non-public status ten years after the date of filing with the Commission, unless the Commission or its authorized representative enters an order extending the duration of that status. 39 C.F.R. § 3007.30.

(8) Any other factors or reasons relevant to support the application.

None.

Conclusion

For the reasons discussed, the Postal Service asks that the Commission grant its application for non-public treatment of the identified materials.

CHINA POST GROUP – UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE MULTI-PRODUCT BILATERAL AGREEMENT

This Agreement ("Agreement") is between the United States Postal Service ("USPS"), an independent establishment of the Executive Branch of the Government of the United States with offices at 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, DC 20260, and China Post Group ("China Post"), the postal operator in the People's Republic of China, organized and existing under the laws of the People's Republic of China, and having a place of business at No. 3A Financial Street, Xicheng District, 100808, Beijing, China. The USPS and China Post may be referred to individually as a "Party" and together as the "Parties."

INTRODUCTION

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to enter into a non-exclusive relationship whereby the Parties will provide each other certain products and/or services pursuant to the terms and conditions contained herein;

WHEREAS, the Parties acknowledge and understand that the commencement of performance under this Agreement is subject to the approval of and/or non-objection by various entities with oversight responsibilities, which may include but not be limited to the USPS management's executive committee, the USPS Governors, and/or the U.S. Postal Regulatory Commission. Accordingly, China Post acknowledges and understands that the ability of the USPS to perform under this Agreement may not occur, and in this respect the provisions of Articles 3 and 4 shall apply;

WHEREAS, in light of the aforementioned acknowledgements, the Parties desire to be bound by the terms of this Agreement as well as the terms of Article 4 of this Agreement entitled "Conditions Precedent":

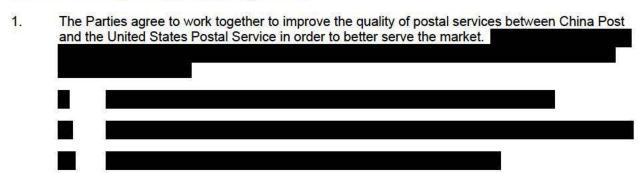
NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises set forth below, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

Article 1: Purpose of the Agreement

The purposes of this Agreement are the following:



Article 2: Guiding Principles of the Agreement



 In addition to the level of cooperation specifically outlined in this Agreement, the Parties intend to collaborate further on product development, enhancements to current products, and specified value-added services required to meet the ever-evolving needs of their customers.

Article 3: Oversight and Effective Date

The terms and pricing set forth under this Agreement require the approval from various entities that have oversight responsibilities for the USPS as set out in Article 4 below. Upon execution of this Agreement, the USPS shall seek such approval. This Agreement shall come into effect upon all such approvals having been obtained by USPS and notification to China Post by the USPS that all required approvals have been obtained, and the date of notification shall be "the Effective Date," unless an alternative date is proposed in the USPS's notification and agreed to by China Post in a return communication, in which case that alternative date shall be the Effective Date.

Article 4: Conditions Precedent

The Parties acknowledge and understand that all obligations of the USPS under this Agreement shall be contingent on the USPS receiving approvals from, and/or non-objection by (hereinafter "Conditions Precedent") one or more internal and external bodies that have oversight responsibilities. Conditions Precedent may include but are not limited to: approvals or, if applicable, non-objection, from USPS management's executive committee, the Governors of the USPS, and the U.S. Postal Regulatory Commission. The Parties acknowledge that the Agreement might not be approved by such bodies. Until such time that all Conditions Precedent are fulfilled that are necessary to provide the products or services contemplated under the Agreement, no obligation shall exist for the USPS or China Post and no benefit or rights granted through this Agreement shall inure to either Party unless and until the Effective Date occurs and upon such occurrence the Conditions Precedent shall have been fulfilled.

Article 5: Limitation on Liability and Costs

In the event that the Conditions Precedent are not fulfilled, the USPS and China Post shall have no liability, which shall include no obligation to pay costs associated with any action taken by China Post prior to the Effective Date of the Agreement. Further, in the event of termination of the Agreement or the failure of any Condition Precedent, neither Party shall be held liable for any damages including, without limitation, the following: actual damages; special damages; indirect damages; incidental damages; punitive damages; consequential damages; or any other damages, which shall include but not be limited to damages for loss of business profits; business interruption; any other loss; and/or any cost incurred by either Party attributable to such non-approval such as attorney's fees.

Article 6: Price Changes; No Effect on Service Terms

For each of the services with specific terms and conditions set forth in an attachment to this Agreement, any adjustments to the rates for the services shall be subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Annexes of this Agreement.

Article 7: Monetary Transactions

 Each Party will bear the costs and retain the revenues for any work performed by itself and by agents or contractors on its behalf, unless the Parties agree to other arrangements to allocate costs or revenues and those arrangements are incorporated in an Amendment to this Agreement. Any such Amendment shall be governed by Article 19 below. 2. All taxes and duties are the sole responsibility of the Party to whom they are duly assessed and shall not be charged to any other Party in any form unless the Parties otherwise provide in an Amendment to this Agreement. Any such Amendment shall be governed by Article 19 below.

Article 8: Customs Inspection

USPS bears no responsibility for the disposition of items in the custody of U.S. Customs & Border Protection. Further, China Post understands that all contents of any item, including items that are treated as sealed mail under USPS regulations, are subject to inbound search and inspection by U.S. Customs & Border Protection, regardless of when the USPS elects to conduct verification and acceptance of any inbound items.

Article 9: Termination

- Either Party may terminate this Agreement without cause upon 30 days advance written notice to be served on the other Party, with such termination effective as of the end of the calendar month in which the 30-day notice period expires. The right to terminate the Agreement for good cause remains unaffected, and failure by a Party to make timely and full payment of any undisputed invoice or portion of an invoice so constitutes good cause.
- 2. In the event of termination of the Agreement under this Article, the Parties shall be liable to make final settlement of all amounts owing as of the effective date of the termination. Each Party shall bear its own costs in the event of termination. All further rights and remedies shall remain unaffected.
- 3. In the event of termination, and as of the effective date of termination, the Parties shall revert to the default letter post and parcel post rates applicable under the Universal Postal Union Convention, and to the EMS charges normally applied in light of the Parties' respective commitments to one another (e.g., as EMS Cooperative members, KPG members, or otherwise), effective at the time of such termination, and neither Party shall be liable to the other for any damages including, without limitation, actual, special, indirect, incidental, punitive, consequential or any other damages (including, without limitation, damages for loss of business profits, business interruption or any other loss) for any reason incurred as a result to the change of rates after termination.

Article 10: Dispute Resolution

- 1. The Parties intend to resolve all controversies under this Agreement informally through correspondence, oral communications, and informal meetings.
- 2. If the method described in the above paragraph proves insufficient to resolve a controversy, the Parties agree that the signatories to this agreement, or their replacement, shall provide a written description of the controversy to the other Party and a suggested outcome. They will review the information provided and shall attempt in good faith to come to an agreement on the issue through correspondence, oral communications, or informal meetings.
- 3. If the methods described in the above paragraph prove insufficient to resolve a controversy, the Parties agree to refer that controversy to mediation, which shall consist of an informal, nonbinding conference or conferences between the Parties and the mediator, which shall perform mediation responsibilities in the English language. The mediator will be selected as mutually agreed by the Parties.
- 4. With the exception of controversies concerning cost or revenue liability, mediation will provide the sole means for addressing controversies related to this Agreement. If mediation does not resolve such a controversy, the parties may exercise their right to terminate.

- 5. For controversies related to cost or revenue liability, China Post and the USPS will first refer the matter to mediation as discussed in the above paragraph. If mediation does not resolve such a controversy, an action relating to cost or revenue liability may be instituted and maintained only in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. The parties each irrevocably submit to the exclusive personal jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia and waive any objection to the laying of venue in that court, to the convenience of that forum, and to that court's personal jurisdiction over the Parties.
- 6. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Article 10, and without prejudice to Article 12, paragraph 1, in the event of conflict or inconsistency between the provisions of this Article 10 and Article 12, paragraph 1, the provisions of Article 12, paragraph 1 shall prevail.

Article 11: Construction

Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, this Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with U.S. Federal law.

Article 12: Indemnification and Liability

- 1. The Parties acknowledge that aspects of liability or indemnification (including, but not limited to air parcels, and the bilaterally negotiated air parcel product dispatched by China EMS Logistic Company via its network) not expressly governed by this Agreement or its regulations are subject to the appropriate provisions of the Acts of the Universal Postal Union and any reservations the Parties have taken to those instruments.
- 2. In the event that an entity not party to this Agreement asserts claims against China Post or USPS that are attributable to the actions of the other Party to this Agreement and are not subject to the provisions of the Acts of the Universal Postal Union, the latter Party shall indemnify the defending Party for, and hold the defending Party harmless from, any losses, damages or liabilities suffered by the defending Party as a result. In that instance, the indemnifying Party shall also reimburse the defending Party for all reasonable expenses incurred in connection with investigating, preparing for, or defending any such claim, whether in an administrative, regulatory or judicial proceeding, and whether or not the indemnified Party is named in the proceeding.
- 3. Neither Party to this Agreement shall be liable to the other Party nor will indemnify the other Party for any loss or damages including, without limitation, actual, special, indirect, incidental, punitive, consequential or any other damages (including, without limitation, damages for loss of business profits, business interruption or any other loss) for any reason, except for the following:
 - a. liability and indemnification as described in Article 12, paragraphs 1 and
 2.
 - b. final settlement under Article 9, or
 - c. any actual damage or loss suffered by a Party as a result of a breach of this Agreement by the other Party.
- 4. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as an acknowledgment or concession regarding the validity of any claim or the entitlement of any Party to any amount of damages.

Article 13: Language

The official version of this Agreement, including all supporting documentation and correspondence, shall be in English. The English language shall be the controlling language for the purpose of interpreting this Agreement, and all correspondence between the Parties pertaining to this Agreement shall be in the English language. In the event of inconsistency between any terms of this Agreement, including its supporting documentation and correspondence, and any translation into another language, the English language meaning shall control.

Article 14: Confidentiality Requirements

- The Parties consider the rate information included in this Agreement to be commercially sensitive
 information and agree that it should not be disclosed to third parties except as required by law.
 China Post will treat as confidential and not disclose to third parties, absent express written
 consent by the USPS, any information related to this Agreement that is treated as non-public by
 the U.S. Postal Regulatory Commission.
- 2. China Post acknowledges that as part of securing approval of this Agreement and in other subsequent regulatory filings, the Agreement and supporting documentation will be filed with the U.S. Postal Regulatory Commission ("Commission") in a docketed proceeding. China Post authorizes the USPS to determine the scope of information that must be made publicly available under the Commission's rules. China Post further understands that any unredacted portion of this Agreement or supporting documentation may be posted on the Commission's public website. www.prc.gov. In addition, the USPS may be required to file information in connection with this Agreement (including revenue, cost, or volume data) in other Commission dockets, including Commission docket numbers ACR2015, ACR2016, and ACR2017. China Post has the right, in accordance with the Commission's rules, to address its confidentiality concerns directly with the Commission. The procedure for making an application to the Commission for non-public treatment of materials believed to be protected from disclosure is found at Title 39, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 3007.22, on the Commission's website: www.prc.gov/Docs/63/63467/Order225.pdf. At China Post's request, the U.S. Postal Service will notify China Post of the docket number of the Commission proceeding to establish the rates in this instrument under U.S. law, once that docket number has been assigned.

Article 15: Severability

If any of the provisions of this Agreement shall be held void or unenforceable, the other provisions shall survive and remain in full force and effect, subject only to either Party's unilateral right to terminate the Agreement.

Article 16: Notices

Any notice or other document to be given under this Agreement will be in writing and addressed as set out below. Notices may be delivered by hand, email, or Express Mail.

To the USPS:

Teresa Yeager General Manager, Business Development, Asia Pacific United States Postal Service 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 5821 Washington, DC 20260 United States of America teresa.y.yeager@usps.gov

To China Post:



Article 17: Force Majeure

Neither party shall be liable for its failure to perform under the terms of this Agreement due to any contingency beyond its reasonable control, including acts of God, fires, floods, wars, sabotage, accidents, labor disputes or shortages, governmental laws, ordinances, rules and regulations, whether valid or invalid, court orders, whether valid or invalid, inability to obtain material, equipment, or transportation, and any other similar or different contingency.

Article 18: Legal Status of this Agreement

This Agreement constitutes a legally binding agreement on the part of each signatory hereto and does not bind the Parties' respective governments. The Parties acknowledge that this Agreement sets out the terms and conditions of a negotiated contractual arrangement between the Parties and is not an agreement entered into or subject to international law. This Agreement does not involve the creation of a wholly-owned subsidiary of any Party or a joint venture company or partnership funded in any ratio by the Parties. The Parties do not intend that any agency or partnership relationship be created between any of them by this Agreement.

Article 19: Amendment

This Agreement may be amended or extended only by mutual written agreement signed by authorized representatives of China Post and USPS. Neither a Party's acquiescence in any performance at variance to this Agreement nor a Party's failure to exercise any right or enforce any obligation shall be deemed an amendment to this Agreement. The Amendment may be contingent upon any and all necessary approvals by USPS management, the USPS Governors, the USPS Board of Governors, and/or the U.S. Postal Regulatory Commission. If such approvals are required, the Amendment will not become effective until such time as all necessary approvals are obtained.

Article 20: Assignment

This Agreement may not be assigned in whole or in part by any Party without the prior written consent of the other parties. Each Party may, however, delegate certain of its responsibilities under this Agreement to a subsidiary or other affiliate entity within its organizational structure without the need for consent by the other Parties so long as such subsidiary or entity would be bound by this Agreement.

Article 21: Applicability of Other Laws

- 1. The Parties acknowledge that this Agreement does not involve the USPS's acquisition of property or services and is not subject to the Contract Disputes Act (41 U.S.C. §§ 601 et seq.).
- 2. The Parties recognize that performance under this Agreement may be subject to laws enacted or enforced by governmental entities and is contingent on each Party obtaining all consents, authorizations, orders, or approvals required under applicable law or policy to effectuate the Agreement.
- 3. The Parties understand that USPS may be required to provide copies of this Agreement to the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Postal Regulatory Commission. China Post acknowledges that the entire Agreement, or portions thereof as the USPS determines to be appropriate, will be filed with the U.S. Postal Regulatory Commission with a notice to add it to the competitive and/or market dominant products list.

Article 22: Entire Agreement

- Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, this Agreement, including all Annexes to this
 Agreement, shall constitute the entire agreement between the Parties concerning the exchange
 of international mail described herein.
- The Parties acknowledge that the provisions of the Universal Postal Convention and applicable regulations, as well as the Statutes of the EMS Cooperative, apply except to the extent inconsistent with this Agreement.
- 3. The Parties confirm their adherence to all other terms and conditions relating to the exchange of EMS items set forth in their previous agreements concerning the exchange of EMS items as well as to the service guarantees, targets and levels of achievement adopted by the members of the Kahala Post Group, which are expressly incorporated into this Agreement by reference.
- Neither China Post nor the USPS is released from any obligations arising under the China Post Group – United States Postal Service Letter Post Bilateral Agreement executed by China Post Group on June 11, 2010 and by the USPS on June 25, 2010 ("CPG – USPS 2010 Letter Post Bilateral Agreement"), which expired on September 30, 2011.
- Neither China Post nor the USPS is released from any obligations arising under the China Post Group – United States Postal Service Contractual Bilateral Agreement executed by China Post Group on November 16, 2009 and by the USPS on November 16, 2009 ("CPG – USPS 2009 Contractual Bilateral Agreement").
- Neither China Post nor the USPS is released from any obligations arising under the China Post Group – United States Postal Service Multi-Product Bilateral Agreement executed by China Post Group and by the USPS on August 15, 2011. ("CPG – USPS 2011 Multi-Product Bilateral Agreement").
- Neither China Post nor the USPS is released from any remaining obligations arising under the China Post Group – United States Postal Service Multi-Product Bilateral Agreement executed by China Post Group and by the USPS on November 8, 2012, as modified by
 - Amendment One executed by China Post Group on May 9, 2013, and by the USPS on May 15, 2013,
 - Amendment Two executed by China Post Group and by the USPS on November 15, 2013.
 - Amendment Three executed by China Post Group and by the USPS on December 16, 2013, and
 - Amendment Four executed by China Post Group and by the USPS on January 9, 2014, ("CPG – USPS 2012 Multi-Product Bilateral Agreement").
- Neither China Post nor the USPS is released from any remaining obligations arising under the China Post Group – United States Postal Service Multi-Product Bilateral Agreement executed by China Post Group on April 2, 2014, and by the USPS on March 13, 2014 ("CPG – USPS 2014 Multi-Product Bilateral Agreement").



Article 23: Term

- The Parties intend that the Effective Date of the settlement rates for the products set forth in Annex 1 of this Agreement shall be October 1, 2015.
- 2. The USPS will notify China Post of the Effective Date of the Agreement after receiving the approval of the entities that have oversight responsibilities for the USPS. USPS shall have no obligation to notify China Post of the status of the approval process or of potential fulfillment of the approval process. The Agreement shall remain in effect after the Effective Date until December 31, 2016, unless terminated sooner pursuant to Article 9 of this Agreement. Before the expiration of this period, the Agreement shall be reviewed by both Parties to determine whether to extend or modify this Agreement.

Article 24: Intellectual Property, Co-Branding, and Licensing

The Parties acknowledge that in the service of improving existing international products or developing new international products under this Agreement that such products may be enhanced through the use of co-branding or the use of each Party's trademarks, logos or intellectual property. In such instances, the Parties acknowledge and agree that any use shall be subject to separate written agreements. The Parties acknowledge and agree that neither Party shall use the other Party's trademarks, logos or intellectual property until such time that a license for each specific such use has been executed by the Parties and all laws and regulations required for such license's effectiveness have been perfected, which shall include but not be limited to any recordation requirements.



Article 25: Survival

The provisions of Articles 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 22, 23, and 24 shall survive the conclusion or termination of this agreement, as well as any other terms insofar as they apply to the Parties' continuing obligations to one another under the articles listed above.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties agree to be bound as of the latest date of signature to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

China Post	United States Postal Service
	Giselle Valera Managing Director, Global Business, and Vice President
Date	

List of Annexes

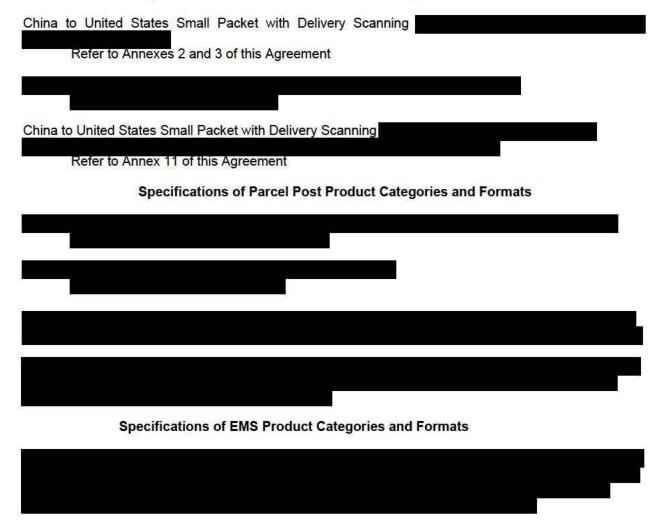
Annex 1	Settlement Rates
Annex 2	China to United States Small Packet with Delivery Scanning
Annex 3	Co-Designed Label Samples
Annex 4	Detailed Item Content Restrictions
Annex 5	
Annex 6	Business Rules for International Mail Settlement of Products Listed in Annex 1
Annex 7	
Annex 8	
Annex 9	
Annex 10	
Annex 11	China to United States Small Packet with Delivery Scanning

Annex 1: Settlement Rates Inbound products China to USA in SDR Outbound products USA to China in SDR

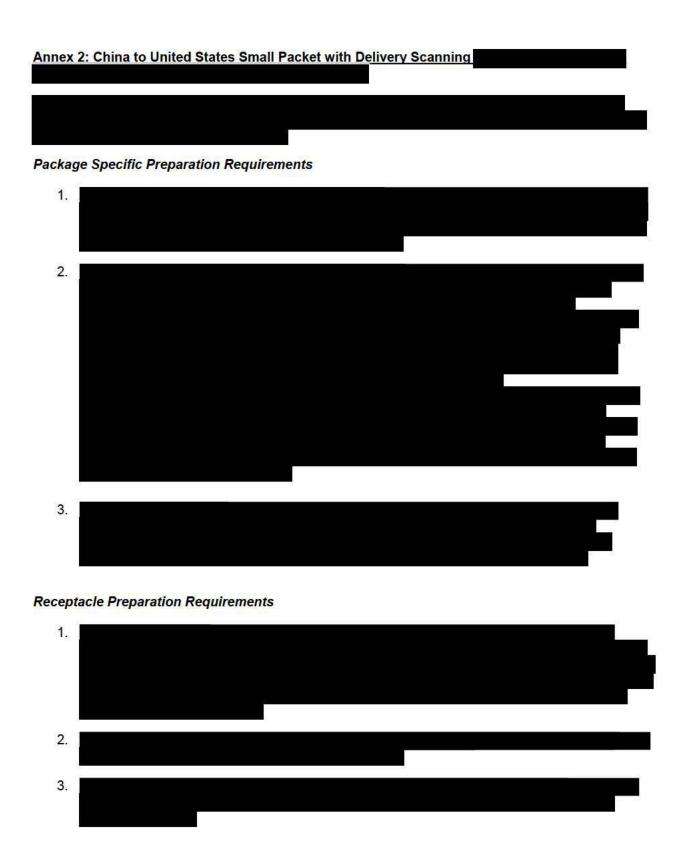


The rates for the mail stream categories above shall be based upon the following format and product definitions.

Specifications of Letter Post Product Categories and Formats







Dispatch Preparation Requirements



Financial Requirements



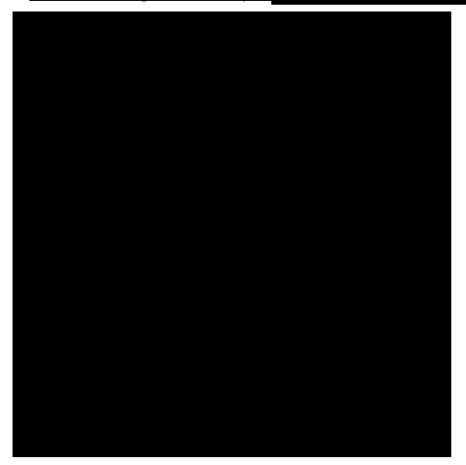
Return Service, Customer Inquiries and Compensation



Service Standards



Annex 3: Co-Designed Label Samples



Annex 4: Detailed Item Content Restrictions

All items mailed under this Agreement must conform to the mailability requirements of the United States Postal Service, as detailed in the International Mail Manual sections 135 and 710; the United States country listing in the Universal Postal Union's List of Prohibited Items; and Domestic Mail Manual section 601. As of the execution date of this Agreement, these materials are available at the following websites, respectively:

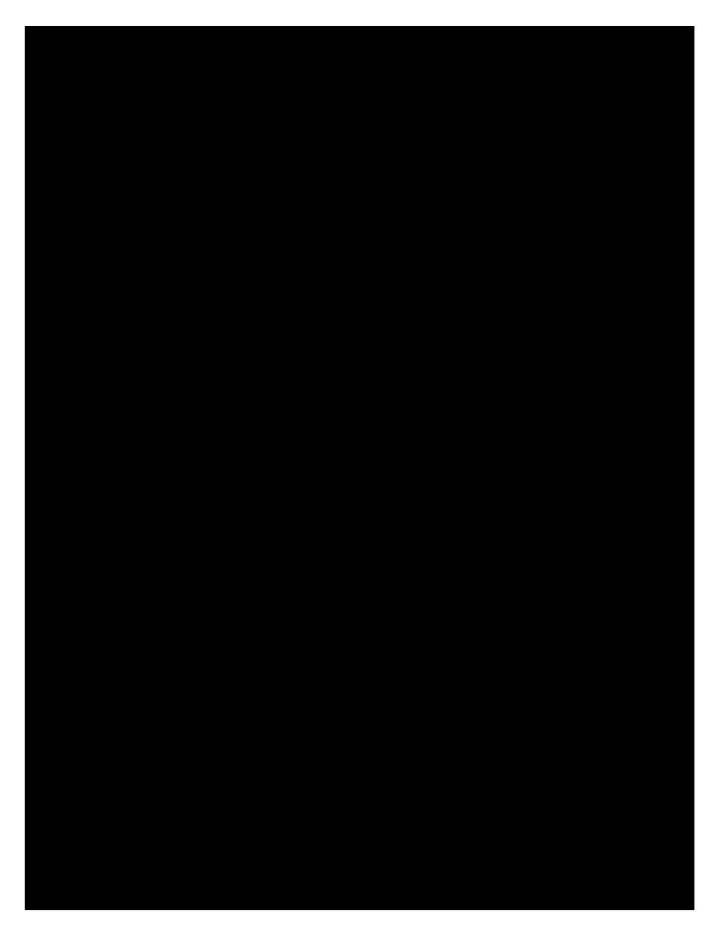
http://pe.usps.gov/text/imm/immc1 013.htm

http://pe.usps.com/text/imm/immc7 001.htm

http://www.upu.int/en/activities/customs/list-of-prohibited-articles.html

http://pe.usps.gov/text/dmm300/601.htm





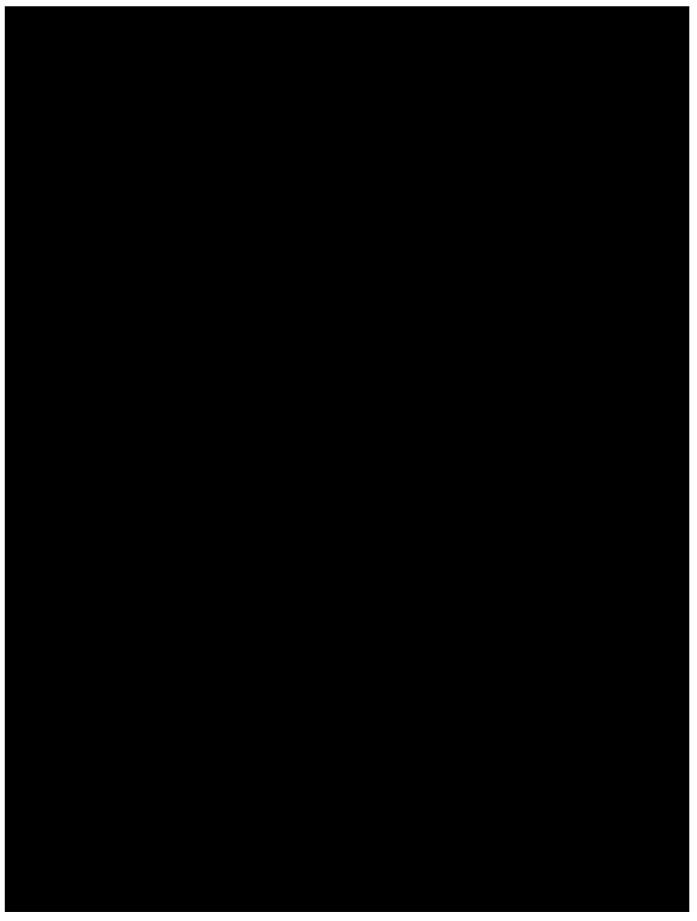


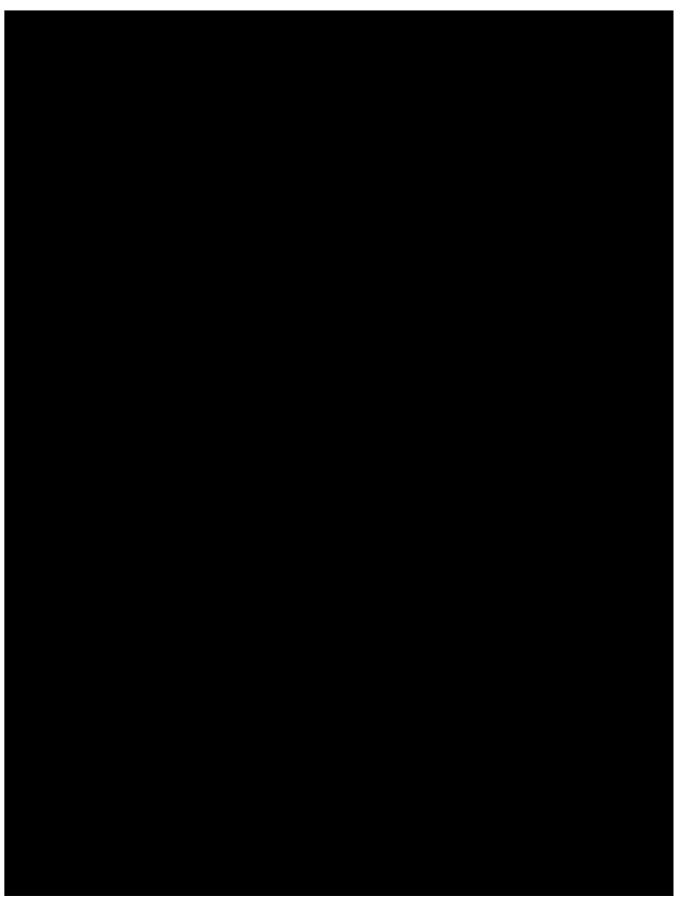






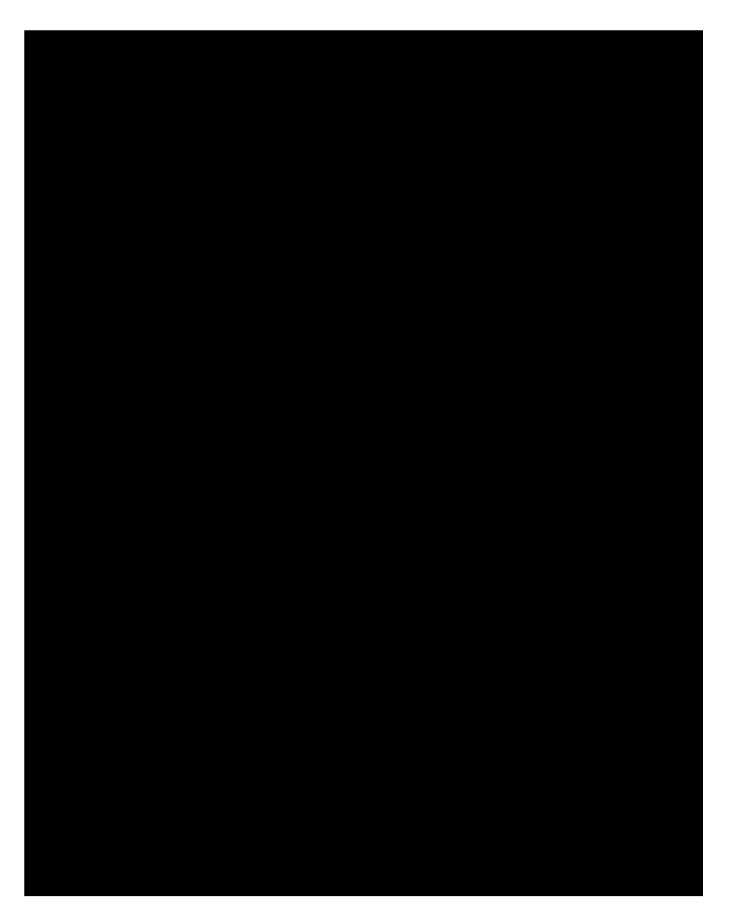


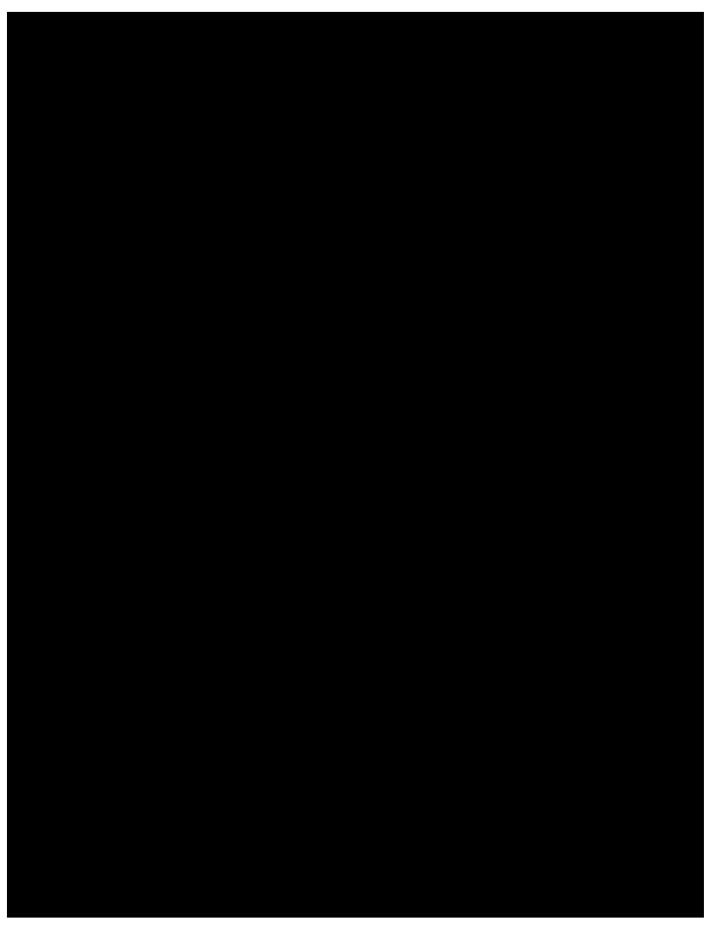




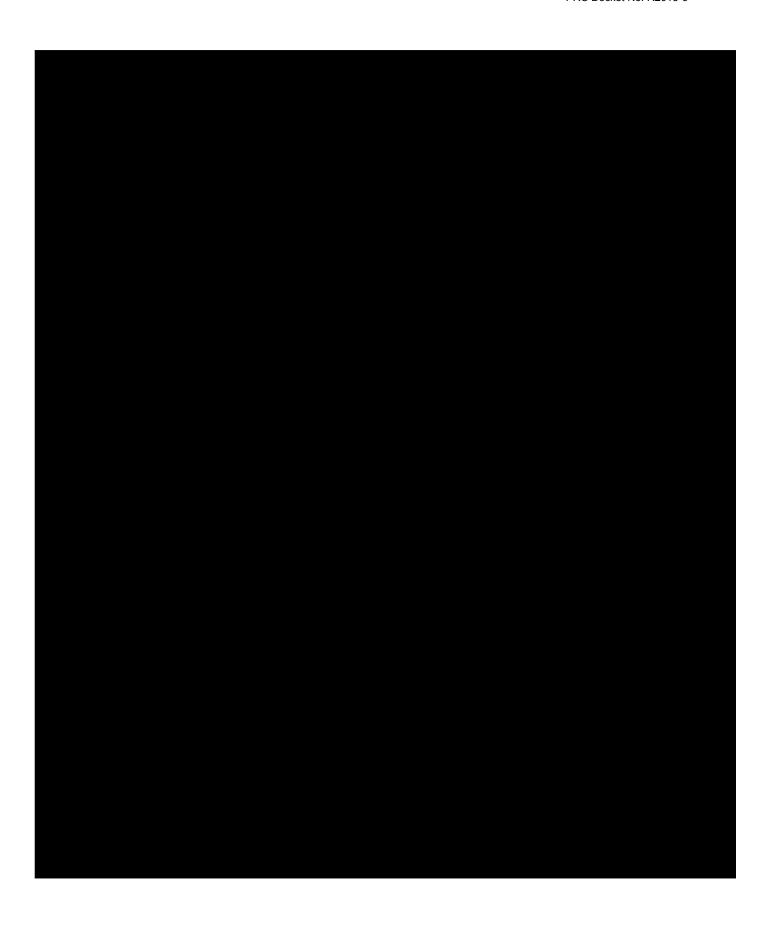














Annex 9







